

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Presently amended) A method of preparing a composition enriched for anthocyanins, comprising:
 - a) ~~providing~~ preparing a crude extract of a plant material by a method that excludes the addition of bisulfite ions, wherein said plant material contains anthocyanins;
 - b) filtering said crude extract;
 - c) contacting said crude extract with a brominated polystyrene resin, wherein said resin adsorbs said anthocyanins;
 - d) washing said resin; and
 - e) eluting said anthocyanins from said brominated polystyrene resin to obtain a composition enriched for anthocyanins.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least 8% anthocyanins.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said composition comprises between about 8-40% anthocyanins.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said composition comprises about 25% anthocyanins.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises proanthocyanins.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said composition comprises at least 5% proanthocyanins.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises total phenols
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said composition comprises at least 20% total phenols.
9. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said crude extract is prepared by extracting a dried or fresh plant material with an acidified extraction solvent comprising an aqueous solution having between about 0-95% ethanol and between about 0.5-3% acid or an aqueous solution having between about 0-100% methanol and between about 0.5-3% acid.
10. Previously cancelled.
11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said acid is sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid.

12-13. Previously cancelled.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering comprises adding a filter aid to said crude extract to form a suspension, and filtering said suspension through a bed of said filter aid.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said filter aid is diatomaceous earth or cellulose.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said filtering comprises passing said crude extract through a bag filter.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said resin is washed with water containing at least 0.1% acid.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said acid is acetic acid.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said anthocyanins are eluted from said brominated polystyrene resin with 70:30 ethanol/water.

20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said plant material is selected from the group consisting of blueberries, bilberries, blackberries, strawberries, red currants, black currants, cranberries, cherries, raspberries, grapes, currants, elderberries, hibiscus flowers, bell peppers, red cabbage, purple corn, and violet sweet potatoes.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said plant material is bilberry.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said plant material is blueberry.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising passing said composition isolated in step (e) through an anion exchange column.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is further combined with an excipient.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said excipient is selected from the group consisting of preservatives, carriers, buffering agents, thickening agents, suspending agents, stabilizing agents, wetting agents, emulsifying agents, coloring agents and flavoring agents.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said crude extract of step (a) further comprises pectinase.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said pectinase is present in an amount between about 0 and 0.12% by weight of said plant material.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is useful in treating humans and mammals.

29-60. Previously cancelled

61. (Previously amended) A purified blueberry extract prepared according to the method

of claim 1, wherein said extract has an HPLC chromatogram as shown in Figure 5 or Figure 6.

62. (Previously amended) A purified blueberry extract prepared according to the method of claim 1, wherein said extract comprises between about 8-40% anthocyanins by weight of said extract.

63-64. Previously cancelled

65. (Presently amended) A purified bilberry extract prepared according to the method of claim 1, wherein said extract has an HPLC chromatogram as shown in Figure 3 or Figure 4, wherein during the process of making said extract no bisulfite ions are added.

66. (Original) The bilberry extract of claim 65, wherein said extract comprises about 8-50% anthocyanins by weight of said extract.

67-68. Previously cancelled

69. (Presently amended) A bilberry extract comprising 3.3% delphinidin-3-O-galactoside, 3.9% delphinidin-3-O-glucoside, 2.1 cyanidin-3-O-galactoside, 2.6% delphinidin-3-O-arabinoside, 2.8% cyanidin-3-O-glucoside, 1.0% petunidin-3-O-galactoside, 2.5% petunidin-3-O-glucoside, 1.7% cyanidin-3-O-arabinoside, 0.3% peonidin-3-O-galactoside, 0.8% petunidin-3-O-arabinoside, 2.1% malvidin-3-O-galactoside/peonidin-3-O-glucoside, 2.5% malvidin-3-O-glucoside, 0.1% peonidin-3-O-arabinose, and 0.6% malvidin-3-O-arabinose, wherein during the process of making said extract no bisulfite ions are added.

70. (Previously presented) A purified blueberry extract comprising between about 8-40% anthocyanins by weight of said extract.

71. (Presently amended) A purified bilberry extract comprising about 8-12% anthocyanins by weight of said extract, wherein during the process of making said extract no bisulfite ions are added.

72. (Presently amended) A purified bilberry extract comprising about 40-55% anthocyanins by weight of said extract, wherein during the process of making said extract no bisulfite ions are added.